

Governor Carney, First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney Encourage Reading This Fall

September marks Library Card Sign-up Month, Free Story Walks in each county

WILMINGTON, Del. – Governor John Carney and First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney on Friday encouraged students and families to read throughout the school year by promoting the new [Story Walks](#) created in partnership with the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the Delaware Division of Libraries and Syncretic Press, a multi-lingual book publisher based in Wilmington.

*“Delaware students, families and educators worked hard this summer to make sure learning was accelerated before students went back to classrooms. This effort was capped off with the introduction of the Story Walks in our Delaware State Parks,” said **Governor Carney**. “One of our highest education priorities is to make sure third graders are reading at grade level. Programs like these Story Walks will help children experience reading in an interactive way in all three counties. We encourage you to check out the Story Walks and sign up for a library card if you don’t have one.”*

*“Language exposure is such a huge part of healthy brain development, and we’re not going to be able to tackle any of our big problems unless we address that healthy brain development for young children,” said **First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney**. “Bringing books to settings where kids are comfortable and that they associate with fun, like at our*

parks, is a great way to encourage reading."

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The Story Walks launched on September 1 in Brandywine Park, Killen's Pond, and Trap Pond. There is a different story featured at each park including: *Noah and the Red Cat*, *Spanish Tortilla*, and *Time to Play*. The book titles and installations were managed by [Syncretic Press](#). All stories are available in English and Spanish.

"We are grateful for the State Literacy Plan funding that enabled us to partner with DNREC on this project so we can promote both reading and outdoor exercise. When families visit Delaware's beautiful parks, we hope the story walks will provide an enjoyable opportunity to jump into a new book," said **Secretary of Education Susan Bunting**. "Families can read the stories together and talk about the books with their children while they are walking. They can discuss what the characters are doing and make predictions from one story board to the next. We hope such experiences encourage reading as a family not just while at the park but also when at home. It's our goal to create lifelong readers in the state of Delaware."

"We are excited to host these Story Walks within Delaware State Parks and offer our visitors opportunities to read while in nature," said **DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin**. "The stories are fun to read and provide short literary adventures that we hope both children and adults enjoy exploring."

"In times when everything moves so fast even when we read a story, a Book Walk allows you to pause between the pages and wonder what is coming next as you literally walk to the next page. Engaging the mind and body this way allows the reader to better savor the story and the illustrations," said **Enrique Morás, Co-Founder and Managing Editor of [Syncretic Press](#)**. "We

are excited to introduce these Latin American authors and illustrators to readers in Delaware. Bringing diverse perspectives on art and storytelling open up new windows of understanding, growth and tolerance in our community.”

The Delaware Division of Libraries is also promoting [Library Card Sign-up Month](#) throughout September. Individuals can sign up for a library card at delawarelibraries.org or in person at their local public library.

“September is Library Card Sign-up Month! A library card is a school essential, and it’s free,” said **Annie Norman, State Librarian and Director of the Delaware Division of Libraries**. “About half of Delawareans have a library card. Register for your library card today, online or in person at your local public library.”

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